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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,855	09/29/2003	Motohiko Matsushita	15115.091001	7968
22511	7590	12/06/2005	EXAMINER	
OSHA LIANG L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY STREET SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			LAVARIAS, ARNEL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2872	

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ES

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/676,855	Applicant(s) MATSUSHITA ET AL.	
	Examiner Amel C. Lavarias	Art Unit 2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments to the abstract and specification of the disclosure in the submission dated 9/21/05 are acknowledged and accepted. In view of these amendments, the objections to the specification in Sections 4-5 of the Office Action dated 3/23/05 are respectfully withdrawn.
2. The amendments to Claims 1, 3-4, 11-12 in the submission dated 9/21/05 are acknowledged and accepted.

Response to Arguments

3. The Applicants argue that, with respect to newly amended Claims 1 (and Claims 2-10, 13-14, which depend on Claim 1) and 11, Higuchi fails to teach or reasonably suggest an optical film having plural diffusion patterns, each of the patterns having, in at least one section thereof, a first inclined surface being curved and a second inclined surface being oppositely inclined to the first inclined surface (as set forth in Claims 1 and 11); wherein incident light hitting the first inclined surface is diffused by the first inclined surface, passed through the optical film, and emitted from the prisms (as set forth in Claims 1 and 11); and incident light hitting the second inclined surface is reflected by the prisms, and emitted from the bottom surface of the optical film (as set forth solely in Claim 1). After reviewing the Higuchi reference, the Examiner agrees, and respectfully withdraws the rejections in Sections 7, 11-14 of the Office Action dated 3/23/05.

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4. The Applicants argue that, with respect to newly amended Claim 11, Clabburn fails to teach or reasonably suggest a diffusion sheet including plural diffusion patterns formed on a light-incident surface, the light-incident surface being the bottom surface of the diffusion sheet. After reviewing the Clabburn reference, the Examiner agrees, and respectfully withdraws the rejections in Section 8 of the Office Action dated 3/23/05.
5. The Applicants argue that, with respect to newly amended Claim 12, Clabburn fails to teach or reasonably suggest a reflector including plural diffusion patterns formed on a light-reflecting surface, the light-reflecting surface being the top surface of the reflector. After reviewing the Clabburn reference, the Examiner agrees, and respectfully withdraws the rejections in Section 9 of the Office Action dated 3/23/05.
6. Claims 11-12 are now rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5818555).

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Yokoyama et al. discloses a diffusion sheet (See for example 2 in Figures 8, 17, 20-21, 23, 25) comprising plural diffusion patterns (See 6 in Figures 8, 17, 20-21, 23, 25) formed on a light-incident surface (See 2c in Figures 8, 17, 20-21, 23, 25), the light-incident surface being the bottom surface of the diffusion sheet, wherein each of the diffusion patterns has, in at least one section thereof, a first inclined surface and a second inclined surface, the first inclined surface being curved and the second inclined surface being oppositely inclined to the first inclined surface (See in particular Figures 12-15), wherein incident light hitting the first inclined surface is diffused by the first inclined surface and emitted from the top surface of the diffusion sheet (See for example Figures 23, 25).

9. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cowan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US2002/0141065 A1).

Cowan et al. discloses a reflector (See for example Figures 1-2; Paragraphs 0023-0032) comprising plural diffusion patterns formed on a light-reflecting surface, the light-reflecting surface being the top surface of the reflector, wherein each of the diffusion patterns has, in at least one section thereof, a first inclined surface and a second inclined surface, the first inclined surface being curved and the second inclined surface being oppositely inclined to the first inclined surface, wherein incident light hitting the first inclined surface is diffusedly reflected by the first inclined surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 1-10, 13-14 are allowed.

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11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest an optical film, as generally set forth in Claim 1, the optical film including, in combination with the features recited in Claim 1, plural diffusion patterns, each of the patterns having, in at least one section thereof, a first inclined surface being curved and a second inclined surface being oppositely inclined to the first inclined surface; wherein incident light hitting the first inclined surface is diffused by the first inclined surface, passed through the optical film, and emitted from the prisms; and incident light hitting the second inclined surface is reflected by the prisms, and emitted from the bottom surface of the optical film. Claims 2-10, 13-14 are dependent on Claim 1, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 AM - 6 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arnel C. Lavarias
Patent Examiner
Group Art 2872
11/29/05